

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

SPM-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 ABF-01 DRC-01 /250 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2337

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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ALSO AID, PHA AND PHA/POP

PARIS FOR UNESCO, USOECD

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, SPOP

SUBJECT: POPULATION COMMISSIONS'S 17TH SESSION OPENS

BEGIN SUMMARY. POPULATION COMMISSION WILL DEVOTE FIRST WEEK TO ITS PREPARATORY ROLE FOR WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (WPC) AND SECOND WEEK TO UN POPULATION DIVISION WORK PROGRESS AND PROGRAM. OPENING DAY STATEMENTS BY UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS, POPULATION DIVISION DIRECTOR TABAH, WPC SECRETARY-GENERAL CARRILLO-FLORES FOLLOWED ELECTION OF OFFICERS. ON SECOND DAY WORLD POPULATION YEAR DISCUSSED. DELEGATIONS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS WITH EXCEPTION OF BRAZIL. INCREASED NUMBER OF OBSERVERS PRESENT INCLUDING PRC.

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1. SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF POPULATION COMMISSION (OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 9) ELECTED FOLLOWING OFFICERS WHO WILL ALSO SERVE FOR THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION IN MARCH 1974: CHAIRMAN MERCEDES CONCEPCION (PHILIPPINES); VICE-CHAIRMEN MRS. V. RUSS (ROMANIA), K.T. DE GRAFT-JOHNSON, C.H. MORGAN (COSTA RICA); RAPPORTEUR D.J. VAN DE KAA (NETHERLANDS). CONCEPCION PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF 15TH SESSION AND HER LONG EXPERIENCE ON POPULATION COMMISSION HAS GIVEN HER AUTHORITY AND WILL TO MOVE AGENDA ITEMS WITH DISPATCH AND EVEN INTERRUPT SPEAKERS WHO BRING UP MATERIAL IRRELEVANT TO ITEM UNDER DISCUSSION.

2. UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS GAVE OVERVIEW TO UFPA'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD POPULATION YEAR ACTIVITIES WHICH DISCUSSED IN DEPTH FOLLOWING DAY. JSFG TO UNFPA PROGRAMS PER SE SALAS SAID SECTORAL BALANCE BASICALLY UNCHANGED (37 PERCENT FAMILY PLANNING, 27 PERCENT DATA-DYNAMICS-POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION 12 PERCENT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT 11 PERCENT, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ACTIVITIES 7 PERCENT, AND NGOS 6 PERCENT). SAID MOST SIGNIFICANT NEW DIRECTOR FOR UNFPA WAS RESULT ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1763 WHICH GAVE RECIPIENT ACOUNTRIES GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF GENERATING THEIR OWN PROGRAMS AND "OF HAVING MORE SAY IN THE FORM OF ASSISTANCE AND IN DETERMINING THE AGENTS THAT SHOULD IMPLEMENT IT ...(THIS) UNDERLIES THE WAYS IN WHICH THE FUND DIFFERS FROM OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS." SALAS ALSO INDICATED IN LAST SIX MONTHS DEMANDS ON FUND FOR SUPPORT SOUND POPULATIONS PROJECTS OUTSTRIPPED FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR FIRST TIME. ENTIRE 1973 BUDGET (\$52 MILLION) ALREADY PROGRAMMED AND ADDITIONAL \$9 MILLION IN PROJECTS AWAIT RESOURCES. KNOWN REQUEST FOR 1974 ALREADY STAND AT \$80 MILLION LEVEL. APEALED FOR INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HIGH INCOME COUNTRIES.

3. UN POPULATION DIVISION CHIEF TABAH'S OPENING STATEMENT INTER ALIA CONTAINED MANY POINTS MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION HAVE MADE INFORMALLY TO HIM IN NEW YORK OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS RE THE NEED FOR (1) TARGETS IN THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION (WWPPA); (2) SHORT NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY OF MAJOR POINTS OF WPPA THAT COULD BE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED VIA PRESS, NGO'S, ETC.; (3) HARMONIZING WPPA WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES SUCH AS DD II. HE SAID THAT WPC AND WPPA SHOULD NOT BE "PIOUS, RUBBER STAMPING EXERCISES," BUT SHOULD LEAVE BEATEN PATH IN SEARCH OF INTEGRATED GROUP OF POLICIES

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AND STRATEGIES SOME OF WHICH WOULD STRESS FAMILY PLANNING, OTHERS HEALTH MEASURES AND STILL OTHERS MORE GENERAL CONCERS OF RALTIONSHIPS TO DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER CONCERNS. TABAH ALSO SAID VARIETY OF REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED BE HELD NEXT SPRING AND HE STILL FAVORED ONE BEING HELD FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES PLUS ANOTHER FOR NORTH AMERICA; REVIEW COMMITTEE ON WPC DOCUMENTS (WHICH INCLUDES CLAXTON OF USA) TO MEET IN GENEVA AFTER PRESENT SESSION CONCLUDED; 25 LDC'S REPRESENTING 70 PERCENT OF

POPULATION OF LDC'S HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO TARGETS TO LIMIT THEIR
POPULATION GROWTH WHICH IF SUCCESSFUL WOULD REDUCE LDCS ANNUAL
POPULATION GROWTH FROM 2.4 PERCE
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ACTION IO-14

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SPM-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 5791

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CONVERATIONS THAT I HAVE HAD IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR, A QUESTION
HAS BEEN PUT TO ME FROM THE PEOPLES FROM THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD.
"WHY, I AM ASKED, DOES AN EQUALLY STRONG MOVEMENT NOT EXIST IN
THE RICH COUNTRIES TO URGE THEM AT LEAST TO STABLIZE THEIR PRESENT

LEVELS OF CONSUMPTION, SINCE IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT ONE INHABI-
TANT OF THESE COUNTRIES CONSUMES TWENTY TIMES AS MUCH AS SOMEONE
IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY?"

5. ON SECOND DAY COMMISSION CONSIDERED PROGRESS ON PREPARATION
FOR WORLD POPULATION YEAR (WPY) WITH PRESENTATION BY TARZI VIT-
TACHI UNFPA EXECUTIVE SECY FOR WPY AND HALVOR GILLIE DEPUTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNFPA. VITTACHI DESCRIBED A FOUR-STAGE
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APPROACH--PREPARATION, PRODUCTION, INTENSIFICATION, FOLLOW-UP--TIMED TO PEAK BEFORE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (WPC). SAID THIS WAS A COMPREHENSIVE, OBJECTIVE PROGRAM AND IT SHOULD BE CONTINUED AFTER WPY. CALLED ATTENTION TO WORK IN PROGRESS INCLUDING: PUBLICATIONS ISSUED AND IN PREPARATION; EFFORTS TO CREATE NEW OUTLETS FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION; FILM PROJECTS; SPEAKERS BUREAU; ACTION BY NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND YOUTH GROUPS. REPORTED EFFORTS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH LOCAL NATIONAL GROUPS INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSLATION INTO LOCAL LANGUAGES IN ADDITION TO FIVE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF UN. ALSO REPORTED 39 COUNTRIES HAVE CREATED WPY COMMISSIONS AND 22 OTHERS HAVE MADE WPY A SPECIFIC FUNCTION OF EXISTING ORGANIZATION. VATTACHI POINTED OUT THAT USE OF PUBLICATIONS LIMITED BY LITERACY RATE AND THIS NECESSITATED EXTENSIVE USE OF FILM, TV AND RADIO WHICH BEING DONE IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES SUCH AS UNESCO AND UNICEF. DESCRIBED HOW EDITORS BEGINNING ACCEPT COMPLEXITIES OF POPULATION MATTERS AND TENDING BE LESS SIMPLISTIC. AT VITTACHI'S REQUEST, EUROPEAN CESI REPRESENTATIVES EXPLAINED A WEST GERMAN SPONSORED PHOTO COMPETITION ON POPULATION MATTERS. AN ILO REPRESENTATIVE DESCRIBED A SPECIAL PUBLICATION ON LABOR STATISTICS FOR WPY. GILLIE REPORTED ON STUDIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD IN U.S. AND THW WORLD FERTILITY SURVEY (WFS). SAID THAT IN KEEPING WITH ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1763 UNFPA WOULD WORK OUT DIRECT FUNDING TO GOVERNMENTS DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE IN WFS. USSR AND UKRAINE STRESSED NEED FOR INFORMATION PROGRAM TO BE TECHNICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY SOUND; VITTACHI AGREED COMPLETELY AND ASSURED THAT THIS A FOREMOST CONSIDERATION. BULGARIA, IN OBSERVER STATUS, SPOKE OF COMPLEXITIES OF POPULATION MATTERS, OFFERED OWN EXPERIENCE AS POSSIBLE HELP TO OTHERS AND SUPPORTED WOMEN'S FORUM. OVERALL REACTION TO REPORT FAVORABLE. PARTICULARLY STRONG SUPPORT FROM INDONESIA WHICH ALSO MADE STRONG STATEMENT IN FAVOR UNFPA WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S FORUM AND OTHER WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

6. BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVE (ALMEIDA) ATTACKED "DISTORTED" POPULATION INFORMATION, BUT CHAIRMAN STOPPED HIS DISCOURSE ON GROUNDS NONE OF EXAMPLES WERE RELEASED BY SECRETARIAT OF WPY WHICH WAS AGENDA ITEM. ANOTHER BRAZILIAN ATTEMPT AT STOPPING REPORT OF WPC IN ECOSOC AS BODY WHICH CALLED FOR CONFERENCE WAS DEFUSED BY LEGAL OFFICER WHO GAVE OPINION NO REASON ECOSOC RESTRICTED TO REPORT
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AND APPROPRIATE IT ALSO GO TO GA.

7. FIFTEEN COUNTRIES AND THE VATICAN HAVE OBSERVERS PRESENT. FAR LARGER THAN USUAL AT POPULATION COMMISSION. MOST ATTENTION PAID TO FOUR OBSERVERS FROM PRC: MR. WANG YU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PLANNED CHILD-BIRTH; MR. CHIU-CHEN CH'EN,

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH; MR. HAI-P'ENG

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